

23 March 1986

Letters

Covert C.I.A. Operations Are Not 'Illegitimate'

To the Editor:

Prof. Herbert C. Kelman's blithe assertion ("When Scholars Work With the C.I.A.," Op-Ed March 5) that C.I.A. activities "run the gamut from legitimate political analyses . . . to clearly illegitimate covert operations" must not be allowed to go unchallenged.

Professor Kelman's reference appears to be to covert action operations (more properly "special activities") which are in fact undertaken pursuant to Presidential findings required by statute and executive order (22 U.S.C. 2422 and section 3.1 of Executive Order 12333), and which are

notified to the Legislative Branch under the Congressional oversight provisions in title V of the National Security Act (50 U.S.C. 413). The Congress, moreover, annually authorizes and appropriates funds for our nation's intelligence activities, including special activities.

Everyone is entitled to oppose any or all intelligence activities. The fact that Professor Kelman may not like certain kinds of operations does not, however, make them illegitimate.

DAVE DURENBERGER
Chairman, Senate Select Committee
on Intelligence
Washington, March 11, 1986